

George William Fairfax to George Washington, October 17, 1757, Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers. Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.

FROM GEORGE WILLIAM FAIRFAX, ESQ.

NEW YORK Octr. 17th. 1757 —

DEAR SIR

After a very Pleasant journey we arrived here the 12th. instt., and had the good fortune to find the Parties here, since which I have spent my time very agreeably with those Gentn. you where [were] so kind to introduce me to by Letter, and found those very serviceable at Philadelphia.

A Packett from Falmouth arrived Yesterday with certain Accts. that the Duke of Cumberland was forced to a Battle with the French Army, which lasted three days. The second he gained great advantage, and would have carried the day had not Marshal Richlieu joined them with 20 m¹ fresh Men. which turned the Scale, and obliged the Duke to Retreat to Hemlin, which he did in great Order, and with such Conduct that even the Enemy applauds him. They are Entered into Hanover and appointed a Governor for that Electrate, and its wisperd from the Fort where his Ld.ship resides, That the French King has sent to our Court, threatening that if Hawkes Fleet put to Sea. they will destroy Hanover with Fire and Sword, and the Capt. of the Packet assures us that his Fleet was at Spithead the 1st. of Septr.—which I fear will have a bad tendency, and perplex our good old King.

Library of Congress

Since writing a Gentn. has sent me a Paper confirming the Action mentioned with other News, which you'll have in the next Philadelphia Paper, to which I must refer being just called upon to prepair to Embark with about fourteen Passengers severall of which are Officers —

Colo. Provoe² has Resigned, Ld. Charles Hay still under an Arrest at Halifax, and much blaimed. Sr. John St. Clair just upon his last legs. and tomorrow his Ld.ship Embarks for Albany where it seems Genl. Webb has demanded a Court of Inquire, after which its thought his Ld.ship will soon Return to this Place, having ordered several Regiments into Winter Quarters. Therefore you must not look for, or expect any thing from this Quarter. And we hear nothing of our Fleet of Louisburg. So that I fear the Campaign will end as the last. I am in great haste

Dear Sir Your affect: and very humble Servt. G. W. FAIRFAX

I understand neither Colo. Young or Monroe where [were] in Fort Wm. Henry during the Seige, and that the command of it devolved on a Militia Officer who had not so much as an Engineer, and that the Signal to surrender was made from the intrenchments, and that the Fort Commanded their ground.

1 Thousand.

2 James Prevost, appointed colonel commandant in 1756.